



STATE OF IOWA

GOVERNOR TERRY E. BRANSTAD
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
ROBERT C. KING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 26, 2013

Mr. Glen Dickinson, Director
Legislative Services Agency
Attention: Mr. Ed Cook
1112 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Reference: State Government Efficiency Review Committee Input

Dear Mr. Cook:

These cost reduction and increased efficiency items have or are being implemented this department.

- Recent relocation to a newly remodeled facility at Camp Dodge.
 - Provides greatly increased handicap accessibility and convenience.
 - Is much more energy efficient – better insulation and heating and significantly improved lighting.
 - Provides a more pleasant work environment for employees and atmosphere for visitors and clients.
 - Collocated with the Iowa Department of Public Defense Comptroller's office which provides our information technology and accounting support. This has greatly facilitated our ability to work with them and increase our efficiency and accuracy in both areas.
 - Has a more efficient and modern fire suppression system to better protect the veteran's records that we maintain in our records holding area.
- Technology upgrades
 - We have upgraded all department office computers with Windows 7 technology.
 - Allows us to have the same technology as many offices that we correspond with.
 - Provides an operating system that will meet our needs into the future.
 - Telephone support was changed during our relocation to the Iowa Department of Public Defense (Iowa National Guard) system from the Iowa Communications Network.
 - Annual savings are approximately \$3,500.
 - We are on the same system as many offices that we routinely work with at Camp Dodge.
 - Repair and technical support is more responsive.
 - We were provided brand-new desk devices during the transfer at no cost.
 - Consolidated printers in the office reducing redundancy of equipment and expenses.
 - Working with the Iowa Department of Public Defense Information Technology Office to design and implement a veteran's service records digital filing/retrieval system to replace

- an antiquated system that was expensive to originally purchase, does not function, and is not repairable as the technology company that produced and distributed they system has gone out of business.
- Will greatly increase our efficiency in records maintenance.
 - Allows integration of some already-digitized records.
 - Meets our specific requirements opposed to purchasing an off-the-shelf system that won't meet our specific needs.
 - Will realize significant cost savings.
- Outreach initiatives. A major Department mission is providing information to veterans and the community concerning benefits and programs available to veterans and eligible family members.
 - Expanded our Department website by linking with more agencies provide greater distribution and access to veterans-related information.
 - Providing increased observation of website updates.
 - Assumed compilation and distribution of an electronic veterans/military-related events listing.
 - Provides significantly increased control and over watch of the content, accuracy, and currency of the listing's events.
 - Is presented in a much more user-friendly appearance and readability.
 - Bi-monthly distribution has been increased to over 600 recipients.

The undersigned is the point of contact for this information. My office telephone number is 515-727-4777.

Sincerely,

/s/

Colonel Robert C. King (Ret)
Executive Director
Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs